

## RIVER STAGES AND FLOODS FOR FEBRUARY 1946

By C. R. JORDAN

Precipitation during February was above normal over a broad belt of the country extending from eastern Texas and Oklahoma northeastward over the Ohio Valley through the Virginias and southern Ohio, over northern New England, Minnesota, and western Washington. It was drier than normal over the remainder of the country, with most of the western half receiving less than half the usual precipitation, and some sections less than one-tenth of the normal amount for the month.

Run-off was excessive over the South Central States, and floods were quite general in the southern states, exceeding at some places those that occurred in January. Snow cover in northern New England and New York was above normal as the month ended, although less than the amount on the ground a year ago.

*Atlantic Slope drainage.*—Snow cover in the northern and higher parts of New England was heavy at the end of February. In Maine the water content of the snow

averaged between 8 and 9 inches, or generally from 1 to 2 inches greater than the average for the past several years. In the Merrimack and Connecticut River Basins, the snow cover averaged about normal for the time of year, the water content ranging from slightly over 1 inch at Hartford, Conn., to nearly 11 inches in the headwater areas.

Flood stages were reached at a number of scattered locations from Virginia through Georgia. Overflow was very moderate and little damage was reported.

*East Gulf of Mexico drainage.*—Severe floods were again reported in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. In some cases, these floods exceeded those that occurred in January.

Record stages were reached at some gaging stations in the Coosawattee River Basin in Georgia, according to the U. S. Geological Survey. At other stations in Georgia and Alabama the February floods exceeded those of January 1946, but did not exceed the maximum stages of record. Extensive overflow occurred in northern Mississippi. Table 1 gives a comparison of stages reached in January and February and the highest stage of record for several stations in the area.

TABLE 1.—Comparative river stages

Station	River	Flood stage	Highest of record		Jan. 1946		Feb. 1946	
			Stage	Date	Stage <sup>1</sup>	Date	Stage <sup>1</sup>	Date
Norcross, Ga.	Chattahoochee	16	27.1	Dec. 10, 1919	27.7	8	19.1	12
Resaca, Ga.	Oostausula	22	33.0	Feb. 11, 1921	29.7	10-11	32.5	12
Rome, Ga.	do.	25	37.2	Jan. 15, 1892	33.8	9	34.1	12
Canton, Ga.	Etowah	17	26.3	Dec. 10, 1919	26.4	7	23.5	11
Cartersville, Ga.	do.	18	29.9	Apr. 8, 1938	30.4	8	28.1	11
Gadsden, Ala.	Coosa	20	31.5	Apr. 11, 12, 1936	28.9	15	30.3	16
Childersburg, Ala.	do.	20	30.0	Apr. 9, 1938	23.0	7	25.8	12
Centerville, Ala.	Cahaba	23	36.6	Apr. 8, 1938	25.6	7	29.5	10
Montgomery, Ala.	Alabama	35	57.1	Dec. 11, 1919	45.1	9	41.5	14-15
Millers Ferry, Ala.	do.	40	56.6	Apr. 14, 1938	49.4	14	46.9	20
Tuscaloosa Lock and Dam, Ala.	Black Warrior	47	68.6	Apr. 18, 1900	61.1	10	63.5	11
Aberdeen, Miss.	Tombigbee	34	43.0	Mar. 30, 1944	41.8	10	39.8	12
Gainsville, Ala.	do.	36	50.6	Apr. 5, 1944	49.5	18	50.8	17
Lock No. 4, Ala.	do.	39	73.1	Apr. 22, 1900	60.0	21-22	63.4	19-20
Lock No. 1, Ala.	do.	31	50.6	Apr. 27, 1900	40.7	26	43.5	25
Jackson, Miss.	Pearl	18	37.2	Apr. 17, 1902	26.8	21	34.5	17
Monticello, Miss.	do.	15	26.3	Mar. 16, 1935	15.5	22	25.0	21
Swan Lake, Miss.	Tallahatchie	26	37.0	Jan. 15, 1932	31.8	13	32.0	13
Greenwood, Miss.	Yazoo	35	40.1	Jan. 19, 1932	38.9	21	39.8	17
Yazoo City, Miss.	do.	29	43.4	May 5, 1927	37.0	Feb. 10	36.8	Mar. 1-2

<sup>1</sup> Provisional.

*Upper Mississippi and Missouri Basins.*—No flooding of consequence was reported in this area although run-off was above normal. The U. S. Geological Survey reports that the discharge of the Elkhorn River at Waterloo, Nebr., was the highest February discharge of 17 years of record. Above normal precipitation over some of the area and run-off from melting snow contributed to the heavy discharges.

*Ohio Basin.*—Light flood stages occurred at most stations on the Wabash River and over portions of the White River Valley in Indiana. The extreme lower Ohio River also exceeded flood stage slightly, but no damage resulted from the minor overflows.

*Lower Mississippi Valley and West Gulf of Mexico drainage.*—Bankful stages were reported at most stations in the White River Basin and at a few stations in the Arkansas and Red River Basins. Several stations were still above flood stage as the month closed. Flood stages

were also exceeded on the lower Mississippi River the last day or two of January and the first of February. Falling stages then prevailed for a week or 10 days, after which stages again rose gradually to crests at or slightly above flood stage at several stations early in March. Stations at which flood stage was exceeded are shown in the table at the end of this report.

The Sabine River was above flood stage at the beginning of the month from Logansport, La., to Bon Wier, Tex., and continued above flood stage at these two stations throughout the month. At other stations flood stage was exceeded on several occasions during February. There was also some light overflow at several stations in the Neches and Trinity River Basins in Texas.

*Pacific Slope drainage.*—Flood stage was just reached at Jefferson and Dilley, Oreg., on the 27th and 6th, respectively. No damage resulted.